

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 8

Mark 5:21-24, 35-42 ESV

Is Jesus' Power Greater Than Death?

Sunday, March 15 at 8:00 & 10:45

Fourth Sunday in Lent – 2015

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is the time of the year when we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. He was so courageous—*in the face of excruciating pain*, and so obedient—to *the will of His Father*; †every step, †every scourge, †every nail was for our benefit! But could *His death* bring *us life*? That brings us to today's key question: Is Jesus power greater than death? Let's discover the answer as we work our way through the second half of Mark chapter 5:

1. **The Location:** ²¹ **And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea.** // Jesus did much ministry – *casting out, healing, and teaching* – on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. In most of Mark chapter 4 Jesus was on the *western* side near Capernaum; then He traveled to the *eastern* side—to *the country of the Gerasenes*. In today's text, Jesus has just crossed the sea again and is back on the shore near Capernaum.
2. **The Great Need:** ²² **Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue** [A "layman responsible for the local house of worship." (TLSB, 1728)], **Jairus by name, and seeing him [Jesus], he [Jairus] fell at his feet** ²³ **and implored** [begged]

him earnestly [showing depth and sincerity of feeling], saying, **"My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."** ²⁴ **And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him....**

- a. **A father's plea:** Keep in mind that Jesus had a reputation – *He had healed many*; therefore, the little girl's father – *desperate to save his daughter's life* – begged at the feet of Jesus. Then Jesus – *the Great Physician, always so kind to those in need* – went with the man.
- b. **Human curiosity:** A great crowd was already present when the synagogue ruler arrived. Now, *having heard the father's desperate plea*, the Bible records that **"a great crowd followed"** – apparently to see what would happen.

In verses 25-34 Jesus healed a woman who had been ill for 12 years; she had been under the care of many doctors and spent all she had, yet she remained ill until she – *in faith* – touched Jesus!

3. **The Bad News:** ³⁵ **While he was still speaking [to the woman who had just been healed], there came from the [synagogue] ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"** // Can you imagine the devastating news; his daughter was so close to being healed and *yet she died*. He must have thought to himself: ➡If only I had come to Jesus sooner; ➡if only Jesus had not been delayed by the sick woman; ➡if only my daughter had held on a little longer. Her healing was so close, but now it had slipped away : (

4. **The Challenge:** ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. // Jesus said: “Do not fear, only believe.” Think about the two possibilities:

- a. **Do not believe**—*resulting in fear!*
- b. **Believe**—*resulting in no fear!*

What is the current *great need* in your life? How impossible does it seem? Are you filled with fear? Jesus also wants us to hear His challenge: “Do not fear, only believe.”

5. **The Disbelief:** ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. // Think about someone close who has died: It ➔ can be *so sad* and ➔ can feel *so final*. So weeping and wailing are normal and natural, *especially for a child*. To us *death* and *sleep* are far different; therefore, Jesus statement: “The child is not dead but sleeping” brought ridicule, *thus mockery* from those who were mourning. They not only failed to believe Jesus, *but scorned Him for having said she was sleeping!* What about us: Do we believe that Jesus can do *anything* and *everything*?

6. **The Miracle:** But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with

him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. // Imagine the scene, put yourself in the room as an eyewitness: The atmosphere is 😞loss, 😞defeat, and 😞gloom, **but Jesus** comes, touches, and speaks! As His words spoke creation into existence, *so the soul of the little girl re-entered her body and she immediately got up and made it clear that she was alive!* Then everyone present had an overwhelming sense of 😊gain, 😊victory, and 😊elation!

Conclusion: So what about us: We *have sinned* and *deserved death*, but now, **through Jesus**, we are *forgiven* and *have eternal life!* Therefore, let us know that:

- ⇒ Jesus *can* remove every fear!
- ⇒ Jesus *can* heal every sickness!
- ⇒ Jesus *can* mend every broken relationship!
- ⇒ Jesus *can* do all that seems totally impossible!

Therefore, let us ever †be sorry for our sins, †trust Him as our only Savior, and †rely on Him in every circumstance of life!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**